CHAPTER XXII

How to Make a Bow-String

By L. W. Maxson,

Seven Times Champion Archer of the United States

(Although the following article was printed in the *Archer's Register* for 1903, Mr. Maxson, shortly before his death, kindly furnished a manuscript copy for this book.)

TAKE best flax thread (Barbour's No. 12 preferred), and form three strands of fifteen threads each. Wax these and cut out the threads at one end to form an even taper eight or ten inches long. Form double tapers of a little more than twice this length and wax these to the main strands so as to lengthen the loops when completed. Lay the strands together and, beginning where the loop is to be formed, roll or twist each of the strands away from the body and lay the outermost over the others, drawing it firmly towards you. Continue this operation, always using the outer strand, till you have formed a cord long enough for the loop. Turn this back upon itself and wax down the tapered

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ends, each with one of the main strands of the string, arranging them so that they embrace one of the other strains. With the ends of the loop in close contact, resume the laying operation, "twisting from and drawing towards," till the cord has been laid beyond the filling pieces. Comb out the strands with the fingers, draw tight, and cut off about eight inches longer than the desired length of the bow-string, taper the ends and add strengthening sections as before.

At this point I generally catch the finished loop over the nock of the bow and drawing, the strands tight, begin to form the second loop about two inches short of the opposite nock. The second loop is formed exactly like the first, the three strands of the string being combed out as necessary, to prevent tangling. When the loops have been completed, wax together all the strands, partly twist them, and stretch upon the bow. Rub down with a piece of paper and repeat the twisting and rubbing till the portion of the string between the said sections becomes round and hard, and the bow is strung to the right height. A coat of varnish and proper serving complete as good a string as any

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archer needs. If the archer prefers, a silken serving may be laid on from loop to loop. For a ladies' bow three strands of thirteen threads are used.

A bow-string made as above seldom gives down, when once stretched, and may be adjusted in a moment by giving it a slight twist.

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